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STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Costa Rica
19th Session of the UPR Working Group of the
Human Rights Council
28 April – 9 May 2014

Thank you Mr. Vice President,

Malaysia welcomes the high-level delegation of Costa Rica and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

2. Malaysia appreciates the update on the progress made by the Government of Costa Rica on the implementation of the recommendations received during its first UPR. In particular, we commend the National Women's Institute for the establishment of a High Level Commission to monitor compliance with the Violence against Women Act, and acknowledge the tremendous efforts that it had made so far to improve and advance women's rights. We note positively that the issue of violence against children and adolescents had also received particular attention by the Government and would like to encourage the Government to implement policies and programmes afforded to them, particularly in the areas of education.

3. We are also pleased to note the measures that have been put in place by Costa Rica to combat trafficking in persons, notably the enactment of the new Trafficking in Persons Act in 2013, and encourage the Government to take heed of CEDAW's call for the Government to allocate adequate resources to combat trafficking in persons.

4. While my delegation acknowledges the challenges and constraints faced by Costa Rica to further promote and protect the rights of its people, we view that there is still room for improvement. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to make the following **two** recommendations:

- 4.1. One: to step up measures to ensure stronger coordination between agencies dealing with issues relating to children in order to eliminate violence, commercial sexual exploitation and child labour; and
- 4.2. Two: to consider adopting public policies on ensuring quality education for children and adolescents, and to further allocate adequate financial resources to this endeavor, including by focusing on reducing the number of school dropouts.

I thank you.

GENEVA
5 May 2014